

Plan Penn Valley School; To Make Additions To Penn Wynne School, High School Cafeteria

\$35,000 Blaze Routs Wynnewood Family Friday

Narberth and Ardmore Firemen Fight Flames More Than Three Hours

Fire swept through the interior of a large Wynnewood home for more than three hours Friday morning before firemen from the Narberth and Ardmore companies could bring it under control. Damages were estimated at \$35,000.

The blaze, which started in the cellar of the home of Mrs. Charles Y. Fox, of 422 Sabine Ave., was discovered by a maid, Margaret Burd, when she came downstairs to prepare breakfast shortly before 7 A. M. She roused Mrs. Fox, Edwin G., an Autocar official, and his wife, Dorothy, and tried to telephone an alarm, when he found that the fire had already burned through the joists in the cellar to the walls and flooring of the first and second floors, badly damaging the hallway, living room and dining room of the first floor and the hallway and two bedrooms on the second floor. Water and smoke damage was extensive throughout the house.

The rapid spread of the fire made it necessary for the family to leave the house immediately after donning their clothing in the kitchen where they fled to escape the heavy smoke.

Twenty minutes after the arrival of Lower Merion Township Fire Marshal Harvey Benson and Narberth firemen, Benson called on the Merion Fire Company of Ardmore for assistance. The Narberth company stayed for four hours, and the Ardmore firemen two hours and a half.

Benson, who estimated the damage to the three-story stone and stucco dwelling, said the flames may have resulted from spontaneous combustion in porch furniture stored in the cellar.



Mr. and Mrs. John Irwin Bright, Jr., with three of the Irish setters from their "Tamerock Kennels" in Penn Valley. This week one of their champions, "Colleen," was missing;—lost, strayed or stolen.

'Colleen,' Tamerock Kennels Champion, Reported Missing; First-in-Class in 1946 N.Y. Dog Show

"Colleen," the Irish setter who took first place in her class at the Madison Square Garden Dog Show in 1946, was reported lost this week by her owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Irwin Bright, Jr., of "Tamerock Kennels," Penn Valley.

"Colleen," red haired and every inch a lady, as well as a champion, lively for his large playmate on an average of 30 times a day. And little sister Tina, too small to ask questions, reaches out questioning for the soft red body that isn't there.

The Brights' interest in Irish setters, while it goes back for some time, began the earnest, or breeding, stage during the war. In January, 1941, Mrs. Bright, who was Miss Virginia L. Houston, of Gwynedd Valley, went to join her husband at Providence, R. I., where she was stationed with the U. S. Air Corps. Captain Bright found the housing shortage acute but he finally managed to secure a small house in Providence, on condition that the young couple take care of the Irish setter of the owners. Both owners did war work, and were unable to care properly for the dog.

They became deeply interested in her, and when they were transferred, asked if they might keep her. Because they were still unable to care for her, the owners agreed, and turned over the papers. There began an embryo kennel.

The dog was originally from Warren Road's Wamsutta Kennels. She was a great granddaughter of Higgins' Red Pat—probably the greatest Irish setter of them all, and a granddaughter of Patty and her husband at Providence, R. I., where she was stationed with the U. S. Air Corps.

P. V. Garden Association To Hear W. C. Hampton

The Penn Valley Garden Association will hold a meeting in the Parish House of All Saints Church, Wynnewood, Monday, February 9, at 10:30 A. M.

The speaker will be W. C. Hampton, of Collegeville, Pa., former member of the faculty of Swarthmore College.

Mr. Hampton, who will speak on "Woodcraft," will illustrate his lecture with examples of woodcraft from his studio in Collegeville.

Board Acts to Avoid Crowding Merion, Cynwyd Lighting, Kindergarten, Visual Education To Be Studied

Three moves to alleviate crowded conditions in the Lower Merion schools were made at a special meeting of the School Board Monday night. The board decided:

- 1.—That prices for architects "rough" drawing of a proposed elementary school in Penn Valley be ascertained at once, with a view to beginning construction as soon as possible;
- 2.—That the District shall erect an addition to the Penn Wynne School in the near future; and
- 3.—That the proposed addition to the senior high school cafeteria, plans for which have already been drawn, be taken up by the buildings and grounds committee so that work can begin as soon as possible.

The school in Penn Valley was given top priority on the building program, since population trends show that some of the enrollment must be drawn off from the Merion and Cynwyd schools, where the increased population of the last few years has swollen attendance. Merion, it was pointed out, will soon be accommodating the new population of the Shortridge tract and Cynwyd already has the heavy enrollment of any of the schools.

Since Merion and Cynwyd are currently handling students who should be attending the Penn Wynne School, it is felt that the proposed addition to that school will also aid in cutting down the heavy enrollment of those schools.

Plans for the new cafeteria were authorized last March, and on Monday night they were referred to the buildings and grounds committee with the recommendation that it get prices and consider beginning construction as soon as possible.

Also considered at the meeting, which was called primarily to acquaint new members with the building program that began two years ago with a survey of population trends, was a plan to fence various school properties. This was postponed for the time being. Dr. Joseph W. Anderson and superintendent Frank DuBois were asked to make a survey with a view to providing visual education equipment for the school system. The problem of an adequate lighting system, not only in classrooms but outdoors, called for a survey. Board members felt. This was authorized. The problem of grading was referred to the building committee.

Reports on the various church groups were given by their leaders. Those making reports were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gebhart, Presidents of the Luminates, young married couples club; Mr. and Mrs. Win Schewell, secretary-treasurer of the Luminates; Robert S. Goddard, director of music; William Hofstadter, Sunday School superintendent; Fred Segermark, who gave enrollment and attendance statistics; Paul Caulwell, junior department superintendent; Albert Cederstrom, finance officer of the Men's Organization, and Mrs. Sheldon Myers, women's guild president.

Also Mrs. J. Harold Mumper, vice president of the women's guild; Mrs. Vernon R. Dunlap, secretary of the women's guild, and J. F. Tripician, who presented a finance report of the church prepared by Miss Elinor Briner, financial secretary.

At the meeting four members were elected to the Church Council following the presentation of their names for election by the nominating committee. Those elected were Mrs. W. G. Briner, Chester Jones, C.F. Osner Jr. and J.F. Tripician.

There, for the first time, people are seeing democracy at work," he said. "It is the finest kind of advertisement, both for the YMCA and for the US."

Charles U. Shellenberger, general secretary of YMCA's in Philadelphia and vicinity, declared that the present facilities of the Main Line Y are insufficient to handle the program.

"The program is being carried out now only because of the cooperation of the schools, churches and other facilities in the area," he reported. "For half a century the 'Y' building at 116 West Lancaster Ave. has served boys and girls of the Main Line. Now, like the wondrous one-hoss shay, the building is literally falling apart. There are some who feel that its condition represents a hazard to safety. The time is here for its replacement. Certainly the Main Line board of managers deserves the full support of the community at large, as it develops plans for the ultimate goal of new headquarters."

In his resume of the year's activities the executive secretary, R. Rowland Weaver, reported there are now 1008 members on the roll. One hundred ninety-six different groups have an aggregate attendance of 48,717, he continued, and with additional groups and special events, 284 groups met in 18,011 sessions. The aggregate total attendance was 74,793. During the summer a special daily program was held for boys. Ninety-two boys

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What's your favorite flavor? Read "ICE CREAM EATERS, ARISE" in THINKING OUT LOUD

The popular new column with a Main Line Locale

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Former Magistrate Lowmes Says No Tax Increase Is Necessary

A former justice of the peace and a taxpayer this week registered a protest against Lower Merion's township tax increase and the limited cost-of-living pay increase the commissioners voted for their 285 employees.

The Lower Merion commissioners passed a tentative 1948 budget last Wednesday night which will be available for inspection at the Township Building in Ardmore for 30 days before it comes up for a final vote. The 30-day holdover period before final passage was fixed by the State Legislature to give taxpayers an opportunity to enter a budget protest.

Former Magistrate Walter B. Lowmes, Jr., who is making the protest, declared in a letter to the commissioners that the employees should have been given a \$600 a year increase to meet added costs of living. The former magistrate,

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Henry L. Callahan, whose recording laboratory in Narberth is fast becoming well known, is shown in his control room listening to a short wave broadcast.

Callahan Now 'Citizen of World' Through Radio and Recordings

By NANCY LAWRENCE

His contract with these people is solely through the medium of the recently established recording laboratory in Narberth, where he rapidly occupies a prominent place in the growing in popularity might well control room. With the set he claim the distinction of being a picks up broadcasts from foreign countries and then corresponds to the "ham" (amateur radio) or announcer who has sent the wire, he sent the ham all over the world and his port-sent them. Through this his list of letters from foreign countries of international friends has steadily grown.

All this is a result of his interest in radio and short wave broadcasts to which he listens regularly.

(Continued on Page Four.)

Tax Rise Would Assist Library

Board Members Envision End of Budget Problem

If the controversial raise in taxation is permitted by the County Courts, the budget problems of the Narberth Public Library may be settled, board members were told at the annual meeting last week by Henry Carr, member of the Borough Council.

The decision will be made about February 1, he added.

Mrs. Robert M. Cameron, treasurer, reported that \$5797 was received by the library in 1947. Approximately \$1200 of that was contributed by residents in answer to a special appeal for funds. Expenditures totaled \$5,056.

Mrs. Helen Kirkbride, librarian, reported that the total circulation of books for the year was 24,044. Mrs. E. C. Drew, chairman of the administration committee, said that the budget was being drawn up with the expectation of an increase from Borough Council.

Members voted an amendment to the by-laws which permits any registered voter to cast a ballot at the annual meeting.

Miss Jean Staples was unanimously elected to the board, and Mrs. E. C. Drew and the Rev. Robert G. Middleton was re-elected.

Elliott J. Morse, reference librarian at the University of Pennsylvania, was named to fill an unexpired term and Mrs. Frederick M. Robb, Jr., who will represent the school board on the executive committee, was introduced. Dr. Allan G. Chester presided.

Lower Merion Township Budget Receipts and Expenditures

RECEIPTS			
	Actual for Previous Year, 1947	Estimated for Current Year, 1948	
Cash Balance for Appropriation	\$ 204,472.48	\$ 148,282.81	
Receipts from Current Tax Levy	907,160.45	911,150.00	
Receipts from Taxes of prior years	38,015.43	38,000.00	
Other Revenue Receipts	221,085.70	221,085.70	
Miscellaneous Receipts	23,839.30	17,170.96	
Total Estimated Receipts and Cash	\$1,394,781.74	\$1,335,699.47	
EXPENDITURES			
	Actual for Previous Year, 1947	Estimated for Current Year, 1948	
General Government:			
Administration and Tax Collector	\$ 61,767.29	\$ 67,126.17	
Township Buildings	10,421.07	11,000.00	
Veterans Service Center	25,736.72	26,843.14	
Protection to Persons and Property:			
Police	387,227.02	400,529.04	
Fire	85,853.13	90,415.55	
Building Regulations and Zoning	20,098.14	19,775.00	
Health and Sanitation:			
Health Bureau	30,854.08	36,946.63	
Garbage Collection and Disposal	23,212.06	23,335.65	
Sanitary Sewers	83,580.43	112,566.73	
Ash and Rubbish Collection and Disposal	82,850.25	88,000.00	
Highways:			
Streets and Bridges	205,531.52	209,073.57	
Street Lighting	62,278.17	63,500.00	
Libraries	12,900.00	14,050.20	
Recreation:			
Parks and Playgrounds	89,435.37	84,654.32	
Miscellaneous:			
Patriotic and Civic Celebrations		175.00	
Shade Tree Commission	19,944.67	24,869.60	
Planning Commission	5,498.40	7,950.79	
Retirement Plan for Township Employees	29,220.65	52,515.21	
Total for Operation, Maintenance and Capital Outlay	\$1,244,152.01	\$1,333,324.47	
Debt Service:			
Interest	221.92	250.00	
Transfer to Sinking Fund	2,125.00	2,125.00	
Total Appropriations from General Funds	\$1,246,498.93	\$1,335,699.47	
TAX RATE, 1948—10½ Mills	\$10.50 on each \$1000.00 of Assessed Valuation	10 Mills General Fund; ½ Mill Parks and Playgrounds	

Aide Chairman



LITA OYALLE, Miss Oyalle, of the Avon Apartments, Narberth, will serve as chairman of Aides for the Main Line Playhouse's next production, "Here Today," to be presented in the Lower Merion Senior High School auditorium Saturday night, January 31.

OUR TOWN

IS ON SALE EACH WEEK AT THE FOLLOWING STORES:

Davis Store, 224 Haverford Ave., Narberth.

Granite Drug Store, Montgomery Ave., Narberth.

Narberth News, 238 Haverford Ave., Narberth.

Trainer's, 238 Woodbine Ave., Narberth.

Water Co. Raises Rates 10 Per Cent

Will Affect 100,000 Users in 3-County Area

The Philadelphia Suburban Water Company is raising its rates to the average household consumer by an average of 10 percent. The company serves 50 communities in Delaware, Montgomery and Chester counties.

The new charges for metered service were filed Wednesday with the Public Utility Commission at Harrisburg, to become effective March 29.

An officer of the company estimated that the company's average "domestic" bill was \$24 a year, but that this includes apartment houses so that the average bill for a one-family house is nearer \$20. He said the proposed increase would add 50 cents to the quarterly bill of the average householder.

He said that this was the first increase since 1920 and that there have been five reductions in rates since 1932.

The water company, organized in the 1880's, has slightly more than 100,000 customers on metered service in an area including all the Main Line to beyond Paoli, south to Chester, west through Conshohocken, northeast to the Bucks County line, taking in Willow Grove and Plymouth.

In a notice sent to consumers, the company explained that the rate increase has been adopted because of increased costs and after careful study "led to the unavoidable conclusion" that the company could not continue "to render adequate and satisfactory service at its present rates."

The company spokesman emphasized that the new rates do not apply to any form of fire protection in the communities it serves.

Lafore Elected Chairman Of Montgomery Hall Board

Montgomery County Controller John A. Lafore, Jr., of Rose Lane and Avonwood Rd., Haverford, was elected chairman of the Board of Managers of Montgomery Hall, Jeffersonville, at a meeting in the county court house last week. He succeeds Dr. Frank P. K. Barker, of Conshohocken State Rd., Gladwyne, former controller.

Lafore also was named to replace Dr. Barker as secretary of the County Retirement Board at another recent meeting.

Dorothy Lawley's Snow Queen

Crowned at Annual Ball Saturday in High School

Dorothy Lawley, of 1325 Grenox Rd., Wynnewood, a senior at the Lower Merion Senior High School, was crowned "Snow Queen" at the school's senior prom Saturday night, January 24.

Miss Lawley, a member of the class of 1948, is president of the bridge club and vice-president of the Student Council. In her junior year she was secretary of the Red Cross Club, and in her sophomore year she belonged to the Hi-Y, and the Latin-American Club. Snow Queens are chosen on the basis of their popularity as well as their activities.

Serving in the Queen's Court Saturday night were Libby Ridenour, Mimmo Simons, Peggy Smythe and Dorothy Boswell. Peggy Dagitt, last year's Queen, presided. Each of the members of the court, as well as the Queen, was presented with corsages of roses.

The affair was held in Downs Gym, which was decorated with snow men, stars, icicles and white cloth stretched across the gym to give an authentically wintry air. In the center stood the throne, covered with a velvet robe.

Edmund Wilcox, sponsor for the senior class, said that 281 couples attended, and that the \$200 profit realized will be placed in the class treasury. It is an annual affair at the school.

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(Continued on Page Four.)

Narberth Home Sold For \$15,000

The two and one-half story single Colonial house at 149 Merion Ave., Narberth, has been sold by E. R. Kirk, to the Rev. Frederick L. Pedersen, of the Board of Home Missions, Methodist Episcopal Church, for \$15,000.

E. A. Clarke, Realtor of Merion, represented the buyer, and Harris & Bunting, of Merion represented the seller.

Local Playhouse To Stage Farce

To Present 'Here Today' In H. S. Auditorium

The Main Line Playhouse will present "Here Today," a three-act farce by George Oppenheimer, in the Lower Merion High School auditorium Saturday night, January 31.

To be directed by Charles Tindell, of Haverford, the play's cast will include Philippa Herman, Jeanne Smith, Mrs. H. Osborne Wallon, Kathryn Morrill, Dr. Philip Goss, "Mr. Wagoner" (George Tindell) and Philip Bentz.

Lita Oyalle, of Narberth, will be chairman of aides, assisted by Patricia Zeigler, Geraldine Murphy, Nancy Simpson and Betty Landis, all of Narberth.

The scenery committee will be Paul and Alice McVickar, chairmen, Robert and Effie Dolen, Ralph Giles, Anita Carroll, Peggy Easley

(Continued on Page Four.)

County Polio Club Holds Elections

Newly Formed Group To Aid Polio Victims

Ernest Brown, of Worcester Township, was elected president of the Polio Parents Club of Montgomery County, at the organization meeting Monday night. The meeting was held in St. John's Church, Norristown.

Other new officers include Mrs. Walter Wagner, of Ardmore, vice-president; Faith Maxon, of Glenside, recording secretary; Nancy Cresson, of Norristown, corresponding secretary; Thomas Yborra, of Narberth, treasurer, and Stella Chinchilla, of Norristown, historian.

Walter Wagner, of Ardmore, acted as chairman of the meeting and announced the stated purpose of the newly formed group as follows:

"Our group is a service club," he said, "whose function is to aid children and adults who have had polio, by bringing to such individuals opportunities for recreation, study and social and vocational contacts, and to actively supplement the work of the Montgomery County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis when so desired by the chapter."

One of the rules of the organization he said was that only polio victims or their parents could be elected to office or serve as committee chairmen.

The new president announced that at a future meeting he would appoint members to the following committees: regional information, publicity, recreation, education, social, transportation, equipment and employment.

Vocal selections were presented by Helen Downey of Norristown, accompanied on the piano by Eleanor Holden, also of Norristown.

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'Y' Work Spreads Democracy, Group Told; Expansion Needed

Jacob McColl, an outstanding

layman in YMCA work, told the audience of more than 150 at Thursday night's annual dinner, that YMCA is one of the most potent factors in teaching democracy abroad.

"There, for the first time, people are seeing democracy at work," he said. "It is the finest kind of advertisement, both for the YMCA and for the US."

Charles U. Shellenberger, general secretary of YMCA's in Philadelphia and vicinity, declared that the present facilities of the Main Line Y are insufficient to handle the program.

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(Continued on Page Four.)

Year's Fire Loss Biggest on Record

Fire loss in Lower Merion Township, for 1947, was the highest in history, according to a report released last week by Fire Marshal Harvey W. Benson. Direct fire loss cost the Township \$140,000, for 1947, was the same number of fires, the loss was estimated at \$149,169.

Fire at the Taylor residence, in Villanova, last August, accounted for \$140,000 of the loss. Part of this was due to exceedingly high repair and replacement losses, and in this case, the house was a mile from the available water supply, and delay in reaching it caused the damage to spread.

A fire in the Merion Manor Apartments, earlier in the year, accounted for more than \$50,000 loss, and two homes in Merion added \$54,000 to the total. There again high replacement costs swelled the figures.

Careless smoking, wood shingle roofs, burnish rubbish, overheated furnaces and lightning were the leading causes of fire in 1947. Field,

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